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FROM : HØNEIN

Enfrench.cova

A selection for the french curious

January 18, 2001

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have been meaning to write you for a while. Being an Arab American, one would expect that I should be writing you about subjects like racial profiling... Well, racial profiling is indeed a great concern of mine, but nonetheless, I also feel that the non-settlement of the case against Microsoft Corporation is directly affecting the likes of my company, my colleagues, and various sectors of the economy, including the stock market, that are the basis for refueling our economy.

I am sure you remember the financial markets' positive reaction to the first news that the breakup of Microsoft, originally envisaged by the previous administration, was finally deemed totally unfair and unwarranted. I strongly believe that allowing the settlement of the case to continue to drag is unwise and negate many other efforts undertaken to revive our economy.

Microsoft could be labeled over aggressive, but this aggressiveness has also contributed to great achievements. We expect more to come from them and from the rest of the IT sector. So please facilitate a quick settlement of the case and help us all focus our attention again on our business. President Bush has promised us "less Government". We are extremely happy with federalizing airport security, but please hands off business!

I strongly recommend that your department issues a deadline by which the federal case pending against Microsoft must be settled. I believe that the mere announcement of such a date will impact positively on us all.

Sincerely,

Antoine Honein

Director

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